

FORM B – BUILDING

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number

21/237	Reading		395
--------	---------	--	-----

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
 MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
 220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
 BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Town: Reading

Place: (*neighborhood or village*)

Photograph



Address: 61 Lowell Street

Historic Name: Charles A. Damon House

Uses: Present: residential

Original: residential

Date of Construction: 1899

Source: water department records

Style/Form: Queen Anne/Colonial Revival

Architect/Builder: unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: rubble

Wall/Trim: wood clapboard/wood shingle

Roof: asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
none

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Condition: good

Moved: no | x | yes | | **Date** _____

Acreage: 0.09 acre

Setting: mixed residential along major road (Rt. 129)

Topographic or Assessor's Map



Recorded by: Lisa Mausolf

Organization: Reading Historical Commission

Date (*month / year*): December 2009

RECEIVED
AUG 20 2010
 MASS. HIST. COMM.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

READING

61 Lowell Street

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

395

Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.
If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

Constructed in 1899 and reflecting the influence of both the Queen Anne and the Colonial Revival styles, 61 Lowell Street is a two-story, gambrel-roofed cottage which is set on a rubble foundation and sheathed in a combination of wood clapboards on the first floor and shingles above. Like the later Dutch Colonial that found popularity in the 1920s and 1930s the ridge line is parallel to the street but that is where the similarity ends. Here, the offcenter entrance is sheltered by a front porch which is recessed from the façade. Adding variety to the simple plan are a number of projections including a three-sided bay window under the porch adjacent to the entrance, another bay window tucked under the overhang on the west elevation and the hip and polygonal dormers on the front roof slope. Colonial Revival features include the Doric columns and the modillion cornice.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.

According to water records, the first owner of this house (originally 9 Lowell Street) was Charles A. Damon (1870-1934). Damon was born in Chicago and came to Reading when he was four years old. He was associated in the clock industry – working first with Daniel Pratt & Son and later with Nelson Brown and D.C. Percival Co. It seems that the construction of the Lowell Street house coincided with his second marriage; he married Inez C. Hall on July 12, 1899. (By 1920 they were living on Summer Ave.)

By 1930 the house was occupied by Charles F. Trevor, an electrician for the Telephone company, who lived here with his wife, Florence. Alice Trevor was still living here in 1955. Frank Foley occupied the house in the late 1950s. Later owners included Michael Christo (prior to 1967) and Philip & Urilla Cheverie (1967-1977).

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Middlesex County South Registry of Deeds, Cambridge, Mass.

Reading Chronicle, March 9, 1934.

Reading Directories, various years.

Reading 350th Book Committee. *At Wood End – Reading, Massachusetts 1644-1994, A Pictorial History*, 1994.

Town of Reading. List of Persons Twenty Years of Age and Over. Compiled by the Board of Registrars, Reading, Massachusetts, 1907-1979. (No women listed until 1924).

Town of Reading. Valuation of Real and Personal Estates, various dates.

Town of Reading, Water Department Records, 1891-present.

U.S. Census, 1900-1930.

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Community Property Address
READING 61 LOWELL STREET

Area(s) Form No.

	395
--	-----

National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement Form

Check all that apply:

- Individually eligible Eligible **only** in a historic district
 Contributing to a potential historic district Potential historic district

Criteria: **A** **B** **C** **D**

Criteria Considerations: **A** **B** **C** **D** **E** **F** **G**

Statement of Significance by Lisa Mausolf

The criteria that are checked in the above sections must be justified here.

Constructed in 1899, the house at 61 Lowell Street is a good example of a late 19th century dwelling reflecting the influence of both the Queen Anne and Colonial Revival styles. It combines rubble, wood shingles and clapboards with a gambrel roof and other Colonial Revival features including Doric columns and a modillion cornice. The property is potentially eligible for the National Register as an amendment to the 1984 Reading Multiple Resource Area under Criteria A and C, for its associations with the late 19th and early 20th century development of Reading and as a good example of the cross currents shared by the Queen Anne and Colonial Revival styles.